



"Eco-TIRAS"  
International  
Association of River  
Keepers

A.O. Asociația  
Internațională a  
Păstrătorilor Rîului  
"Eco-TIRAS"

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Copies – Ministries of Environment of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine

*RE: Treaty on Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation on Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin, signed in Rome on November 29, 2012.*

Dear Sirs,

Eco-TIRAS International Association of River Keepers, registered in Moldova, is the transboundary umbrella of more than 50 environmental NGOs of the transboundary Dniester River basin. We represent the civil society of Ukraine and Moldova, including its Transdnister secessionist region. By the own initiative of Moldovan and Ukrainian NGOs, we were established in 1999 with the aim to promote the Integrated River Basin Management on the Dniester River basin shared by Moldova and Ukraine. The Dniester River, with a length of about 1 300km, is a key river for both countries. It is the source of drinking water of several towns (such as Chisinau, 1,5 million of inhabitants, Odessa, 1 million of inhabitant, Tiraspol, 200 000 inhabitants...) as well as the support of different economic activities (agriculture, hydroelectricity, etc...). It is a unique resource in the region, and its common management and protection is highly needed. However, due to a lack of common management and protection, we are observing a fast degradation of the Dniester ecosystems in liaison to the human activities impacts reinforced lately by the climate change. Serious water deficit has been noticed, even for potable purposes (Chisinau population was on the trend to have no water during this summer 2016), loses of aquatic biodiversity is registered as well as a higher eutrophication and other negative consequences.

Based on this, Eoc-TIRAS has been supporting since 1999 the Governments of Ukraine and Moldova to reach a consensus on the management and protection of the river. More specifically, we have been supporting them to implement the UNECE Water Convention and EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) in relation of creation of a bilateral legal framework for the Dniester River basin permitting them to cooperate successfully in management of this joint watershed.

Both above mentioned multi environmental agreements have stipulations that Parties or Member States sharing waters of common rivers or lakes should conclude the agreement of its joint management. Having difficulties in promotion of this approach, we invited two respected international organizations – OSCE and UNECE Water Convention – to help in promotion of this important step. After a long period, the Treaty on Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation on Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin was signed in Rome on November 29, 2012. You will find attached this treaty to this letter. It could be also downloaded here <http://eco-tiras.org/index.php/dniester-river-basin-treaty-rome-2012>

From our point of view as well as international experts' point of view, this treaty is of very good quality and its implementation shall permit to develop a very fruitful cooperation. Especially, the river basin commission will be established according to the Art. 6(4) and Art. 26 of the treaty. This river basin commission will favor the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, implementation which is a requirement as per the Association Agreements with the EU that have been signed and ratified.

However, regretfully, we have deep concerns on the progress of this process, as Ukraine, for the last four years, has not ratified this Treaty. This absence of ratification has almost stopped the water bilateral cooperation. This point creates an unnecessary tension between Moldova and Ukraine, and also influencing on the security situation in the region. From its side, Moldova ratified the treaty on January 22, 2013.

Due to this situation, we are kindly asking your urgent assistance, through the implementation of the Association agreement as well as the Water Framework Directive, to favor the ratification by Ukraine of this extremely important document. Especially, the Water Framework Directive stipulates that the Commission “shall act to facilitate the assigning to such international river basin districts” (art 3.3) as well as the establishment of the programmes of measures (art 3.4).” Article 12 is also a basis for the Commission to act.

We have no doubts that the ratification and the implementation of the Treaty would favor the minimization of previously described human impacts through of the establishment of the permanent watershed cooperation on the basis of UNECE Water Convention and WFD.

We thank you in advance for your attention to urgent question equally important for both nations as well as for stability in Europe.

We are looking forward to hearing back from you and to providing you our best support to solve this issue.

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